

Ballard

City of Seattle

Public Art & Culture Walking Tour Map

PART
2
OF 2



Welcome to Greater Ballard

Greater Ballard extends from 6th Ave. NW and NW 46th St. all the way to Seaview Ave. above NW 85th St., encompassing the industrial district, the waterfront, and Golden Gardens Park. Because of the distances and topography, this tour should be done by bicycle or car.

Ballard today is a "city within a city" that retains its Scandinavian flavor with institutions such as the Nordic Heritage Museum. As residential development grew in the 1950s, the branch library and community center were built north of NW Market St.; a new municipal center is planned for midtown Ballard in 2003. From the industrial zones along its east and south edges (home to many artists' studios), to the fishing, recreational, and environmental activities at Salmon Bay, Chittenden Locks, and Shilshole Bay, Greater Ballard remains a thriving and diverse neighborhood.

Ballard began as home to the Duwamish community in a village called "Shilshole," meaning "somewhat tucked away." The first land claims were in 1852, with the new town incorporated in 1890, named after ship captain William Rankin Ballard. By the end of the 19th century, Ballard was the seventh largest city in Washington, with its population expanded by Scandinavian immigrants who worked in the mills and fishing fleets. The town boasted a bustling civic and business district, along with a high number of churches and saloons.

building center, Ballard's maritime role increased with the addition of the Fisherman's Terminal in 1913 and the completion of the Ship Canal and Government Locks in 1916. The Ballard Bridge, opened in 1917, brought streetcars and automobiles from greater Seattle. Trolley and interurban train lines also pushed the city boundaries north, to the coastline recreation area of Golden Gardens.



Ballard's need for public services prompted annexation to Seattle in 1907. Already a boat



Greater Ballard

18

Ballard Bridge

In line with 15th Avenue NW, the Ballard Bridge was completed in 1917, five months too late to show off at the dedication of the Government Locks on July 4th. It was the second of five bascule (counterbalanced) bridges built over the Lake Washington Ship Canal between 1917 and 1925. The north end of the Bridge is the site for the upcoming Ballard Gateway Project. A series of illuminated sculptural pylons, designed by Tom and LeaAnne Askman, will be completed in 2002.

19

Untitled, 1985

Using bright colors and silhouette images, Barbara Noah transformed the utilitarian character of the Canal Electrical Substation (Seattle City Light). The upper windows on four sides of the building show symbols of power—love, physical strength, law and justice, intellect and commerce—that are painted on sand-blasted Plexiglas and lit from behind. NW 46th St. and 6th Ave. NW

20

Systems Control Station, 1995

Situated near a residential neighborhood, this Seattle City Light facility includes two artistic components. An ornamental band, patterned after an Arabic rug, repeats plant and animal forms as it encircles the façade of the building. At the corner of the grounds, columns and benches create a formal garden; the concrete seating elements take naturalistic forms, such as tree trunks, and are topped with animals, Dutch children, and a gnome. Artist Jeffry Mitchell used a ceramic surface that whimsically resembles Delft blue pottery. SW corner of NW 47th Ave. and 6th Ave. NW

21

Bardahl Sign

An illuminated beacon for Ballard residents and visitors since the mid-1950s, the monumental “Bardahl” sign was built by Campbell Neon. Bardahl Manufacturing Co. was started in 1939 by Norwegian immigrant Old Bardahl, who arrived in 1922 as a sawmill worker. After World War II, intense marketing of Bardahl’s machine oil additive gave the company international prominence. 14th Ave. NW and NW 52nd St.

22

Wall of Water, 1980

The “salmon mural” was the result of a competition sponsored by the Ballard Chamber of Commerce and funded by Sunset Bowl and Burger King. According to artist Tom Yagle, he intended to paint “just a big waterfall,” but “this is Ballard and people like fish so I added some.” 1420 NW Market St., W wall of Sunset Bowl

23

Hiram M. Chittenden Locks

The Chittenden Locks is part of a 17-acre complex linked to the 8-mile Ship Canal, that connects Puget Sound to Lake Washington. Construction of the Ship Canal began in 1911 and the Locks began operating early in 1916. In that year, the **Administration Building** was designed by noted Seattle architects Carl F. Gould and Charles Bebb, in a Renaissance Revival style that was popular for civic and public works architecture in this period. The use of exposed reinforced concrete was unusual for public buildings in the Northwest, but the surfaces were carefully finished with classical details.

The central two-story lobby retains its ceremonial character, with an elaborate terrazzo floor and original oak woodwork.

In 1931, Carl English began cultivating the botanical gardens that now bear his name.

Still maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the entire campus is designated the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks and Lake Washington Ship Canal Historic District and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Highlighting both maritime commerce and waterway ecology, the facility includes an interpretive center and a busy fish ladder on the south side of the Canal near Commodore Way.

Two permanent public artworks remain on this site from the citywide “Salmon in the City” commemoration in 2001. For *Salmon Suite*, Judith Roche wrote five poems to reflect the stages of the salmon life cycle. The poems were recorded and incorporated into the audio system at the fish-viewing windows. Framed copies are also on display at the Locks’ Visitor Center. Nearby, at the public plaza entry to the Fish Ladder viewing area, *Smolt Slide* by Paul Sorey presents a series of stainless steel sculptures based on

stylized waveforms; a digital element provides fleeting images of smolts (young salmon) swimming by.

3015 NW 54th Street

24

Nordic Heritage Museum

Opened in 1980 in the former Webster Elementary School building, the Nordic Heritage Museum offers a comprehensive look at Nordic culture in America and Nordic-American settlement in the Pacific Northwest, honoring the legacy of immigrants from the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

3014 NW 67th St

25

Golden Gardens Park

Golden Gardens was developed early in the twentieth century as a suburban retreat and recreational area, designed to sell trolley tickets and real estate. In 1923 the Seattle Parks Department purchased Meadow Point at the north end of the site, and six years later added a bathhouse.

Entrance at 85th St. W and 32nd Ave. NW

Made of flat sheets of welded steel coated with bright yellow automobile paint, *Atala Kivlicktwock Okitun Dukik* was installed in 1976. The title is in Yukik, a Malemute dialect, and means “Just Like the Golden Shiny Money Moon.” In response to his own Inuit (Eskimo) heritage, artist Lawrence Beck also used a welding rod to inscribe the surface of the steel with spontaneous patterned drawings, that he called (“Eskiglyphs”).

Upper Golden Gardens, off Seaview Place NW

26

Leif Eriksson, 1962

This 12-foot statue was funded by the Leif Eriksson League, and it was dedicated on “Norway Day” at the Seattle Worlds Fair in June 1962. The final design is credited to music professor and sculptor August Werner, but he received substantial input from local business leader Trygve Nakkerud and others. The bronze statue was cast in Berkeley, California, and stands on a block of Norway granite.

Shilshole Bay Marina, 7001 Seaview Ave. NW